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Town of Guilderland
Guilderland Planning Board
Guilderland Town Hall
Guilderland, NY 12009

April 8, 2020

Dear Honorable Planning Board Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Special Use Permit application proposing the development of a Costco on Western Avenue.

While I have expressed no such opposition to the requested construction of housing on an adjacent parcel, nor to smart land development practices in general, this project would have a profound and negative impact on the quality of life for nearby residents. As Town residents, living within a mile of Crossgates Mall, my husband and I have enjoyed the convenience of living in close proximity to the Mall's many stores and restaurants for years, but we have also had to contend with its associated - regular and significant traffic delays. Thus, the prospect of adding a huge and heavily trafficked Costco to this already overly burdened location, is unfathomable.

I respect that Costco will offer ways that this burden may be mitigated. However, there is simply no practical way of adding hundreds of cars daily to an area that already suffers from a high traffic burden without causing substantial impact and inconvenience. In short, while I support development, and even the citing of a Costco somewhere in Guilderland – the proposed site now under consideration is clearly ill-suited for this purpose.

I imagine that the Town fielded similar concerns with the initial development of Crossgates Mall, and then its subsequent expansion. While those decisions need not be relitigated, they impacted the Town and the quality of life of its residents. As I understand it, at the time, the Planning Board assured residents that this would not become a slippery slope and that further growth and disruption would not be permitted in the same location. I encourage the Board to exercise the restraint previously promised in order to protect our community and our quality of life.

Please reject this application for the well-being of Guilderland.

Warm regards,

Suzanne Wall